



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics

Annual Update for Alums

December 13, 1993

To: Ph. D. Alums

From: Robert J. Gordon, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. J. Gordon", written over the printed name.

This *Update* is the first in what will hopefully become an annual institution. My aim is to tell you a bit about the most important things that have been happening in the department — namely, our move and reconstruction, our faculty comings and goings, and a few of the honors recently won by faculty members.

Move and Reconstruction

The Kellogg Graduate School of Management (KGSM) is engaged in a major three-pronged construction effort (over the period 1992-95) which has had a major impact on the Department of Economics (DoE). First, KGSM has built a new building just south of Vogelback for the School of Education, allowing Andersen Hall (AAH) to be vacated in Fall, 1993, by all occupants other than the DoE. Second, a new "connector" building is under construction during 1993-94, as well as a complete interior reconstruction of AAH in which virtually every wall will be moved. The connector building is being built immediately adjacent to the south end of AAH and will both provide new office space and allow walk-through access between AAH and Leverone on all floors, basement through 5th. The DoE itself has temporarily moved out of AAH during the reconstruction (see below), and KGSM departments will subsequently move into the AAH space vacated by the School of Education. Third, the Allen Center has been enlarged to the north for the second time; the new wing and a new central entrance opened this fall.

In order to speed up the construction and to avoid exposure to noise, dust, and fumes, the DoE has moved off campus during 1993-94 to a commercial office building at 820 Davis Street, opposite Woolworths. Planning and accomplishing this move has

been a major distraction during the past year; offices at 820 Davis are highly unequal in size, so some faculty are happy and others are not. Graduate student space is, if anything, better than past or future AAH.

The connector building and interior AAH reconstruction will be finished next June, and the DoE will move back at some point later in the summer. Our administrative offices, seminar room, and lounge, will be conveniently located in contiguous space on the first floor of AAH, and faculty and graduate student offices will be on the second and third floors, including part of the connector building on those floors. While we do not gain any net square feet, our new space will be more efficiently arranged than before, with uniformly sized tenure and nontenure faculty offices, so that we will have more offices than before to accommodate faculty and visitors.

Faculty Comings and Goings

The national prominence of Northwestern's faculty took another major step forward this past year with the successful recruiting of two new full professors. Eddie Dekel-Tabak joined us in fall, 1993, from U. C. Berkeley, and Faruk Gul will join us in fall, 1994, from the Stanford Business School. Both work on game theory and on the foundations of microeconomic theory. Both are among the very best young people working in these fields.

Another indication of Northwestern's increasing stature is that it has now been five years since a tenured faculty member in the DoE has been hired away by another university. Of the objective evidence on the quality of the department, my favorite is a count done by another university that ranks Northwestern *second* (only to Harvard) in pages published in the *AER* over the period 1988-92.

Several faculty members are on full-year or partial year leaves this year. Joe Ferrie is on leave all year (in residence) with an Olin Fellowship; Bo Honoré is on leave all year at the University of Chicago, and Jim Montgomery has a Hoover National Fellowship. Dale Mortensen is on leave this fall at Essex and in the winter at Cal Tech; Rob Porter in the spring at Chicago; and Mark Watson this fall (freed of teaching but still here).

Visiting us from the University of Michigan this fall is Roger Gordon (no relation), a prominent public finance economist.

Faculty Honors

Here is some of the news on faculty honors that has crossed my desk in recent months. It is quite an impressive list, and I've probably left something out:

Rebecca Blank recently received national recognition as the 1993 recipient of the Joseph N. Kershaw Award, which honors a young scholar (under age 40) who work has had the most significant impact on public policy.

Ron Brauetigam was selected to the ASG Faculty Honor Roll for the 1992-93 academic year and to the Mortar Board Class of 1993 Faculty Honor Roll.

Bob Coen has been selected to the Mortar Board Class of 1993 Faculty Honor Roll.

Bo Honoré has a Sloan Faculty Research Fellowship for 1993-95 and has been named associate editor of *Econometric Theory*.

Rosa Matzkin has been named associate editor of the *Journal of Econometrics*.

Bruce Meyer has a Sloan Faculty Research Fellowship for 1993-95 and has been named an associate editor of the *Journal of Public Economics*.

Joel Mokyr has been elected Vice President of the Economic History Association and appointed the next editor of the *Journal of Economic History*, beginning in 1994.

Alan Taylor is this year's co-winner of the Alexander Gerschenkron prize given for the best dissertation in non-U. S. Economic History.

An impressively large subset of our faculty has NSF or other major research grants in effect during all or part of the academic year 1993-94: Rebecca Blank, Lawrence Christiano, Martin Eichenbaum, Robert Gordon, Bo Honoré, Steven Matthews, Rosa Matzkin, Bruce Meyer, Joel Mokyr, Dale Mortensen, Leon Moses, John Panzar, Stanley Reiter, William Rogerson, Ian Savage, and Christopher Udry.